

## **NONTECHNICAL ABSTRACT**

The immune system has difficulty recognizing and destroying cancer cells. Cancer cells genetically engineered to produce interleukin-7, an immunostimulatory cytokine, may stimulate a stronger antitumor immune response in animal models.

In this experimental clinical trial, patients with metastatic melanoma will be given an IL-7 producing melanoma cell vaccine. The melanoma cells engineered to produce IL-7 will be either the patient's own melanoma or a well-characterized melanoma cell line that was established years ago from another patient. This cell line, now engineered to make IL-7, has been previously administered to many patients in melanoma clinical trials. The objectives of this clinical trial are to determine if the vaccine administration produced toxic side-effects and whether the patient's immune system is better able to recognize and destroy tumor.